



Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW)

Key 2022 Legislative & Regulatory Priorities

State Legislative

- **Explore ways to provide state seed funding for the RBAW Marine Parks Conservancy.** RBAW is exploring ways to work with Operating Budget-writers and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enable state seed funding for the RBAW Marine Parks Conservancy, so that it can replicate the success of the Lakebay Marina acquisition and help resuscitate other dilapidated marinas that are in danger of going away or being sold off to private interests.
- **Strongly support a 2022 Agency request by Department of Natural Resources to dedicate up to \$7.5 million in Watercraft Excise Tax monies** that go into the State General Fund, directing them instead to an **expanded and more sustainable Derelict Vessel Removal Program** that will boost efforts to remove derelict vessels from private marinas.
- **Watercraft Excise Tax** – strongly oppose any efforts to increase this tax as part of an overall transportation revenue and investment package (*as happened in 2021*).
- **Boating safety:** Continue to promote increased awareness of and education on the importance of boater safety. Work to ensure that if the Legislature proposes an expansion of requirements to wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs), **that such an expansion first be directed toward human-powered vessel operators** where no wear-on-water requirement exists.
- Initiate a dialogue with Washington State Parks to **see if state funding for mobile vessel pump-out devices can be added to the federal Clean Vessel Act dollars that Washington currently receives.** Mobile pump-out services are currently lacking in some of the most populated areas of the state and on the most heavily-used waterways.
- **Lakebay Marina:** As the purchase of Lakebay is complete, continue working with DNR on the important joint planning process to help determine future funding, the physical layout of the marina, and more.
- Continue to **actively participate in and promote the efforts of the Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition**, an umbrella organization that promotes the economic, health, and quality-of-life importance of the outdoor recreation sector.



Federal-State-Local Regulatory and Budget Items

- **Watercraft Excise Tax Depreciation Schedule – Petition a Portion of DOR Rule-Making:** RBAW was instrumental in leading a coalition of recreational boating, marine trade, and maritime interests that participated and responded as the Department of Revenue (DOR) utilized statutory authority to update its Watercraft Excise Tax depreciation schedule for the first time since July 1, 2010. While our coalition’s work and intervention helped ensure a favorable fair-market-value formula for vessels aged 1-10 years or so, RBAW remains significantly concerned that the schedule for vessels 14 years and older assumes a percentage value that is *far too high* and in fact assumes that a vessel’s fair-market value stays constant from 17 years onward (e.g. a vessel that is 30-40 years old would be assessed on the same fair market value percentage as one 17 years old). RBAW plans to initiate a petition against this portion of the DOR rule-making and will seek coalition support and data to assist in this effort – one which will be challenging given that the petition goes through the same agency that updated the rule-making (DOR).
- **Seattle Harbor Patrol:** Continue work to spearhead coalition efforts to restore Seattle Harbor Patrol personnel and enforcement, which has been severely depleted the last 1 ½ years.
- **National Marine Fisheries Service:** Continue to work closely with NMTA, Ports, the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and others to unlock a three-year gridlock that has prevented marina operators throughout Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest from receiving needed permits for upgrades which often are *beneficial* for the marine environment.
- **Andrews Bay:** Continue to work on efforts to promote responsible and safe behavior by boaters who go to Andrews Bay, while resisting knee-jerk calls to remove recreational boaters from this South Lake Washington jewel.
- **DNR Aquatics Land Leases:** Along with our partners at NMTA, continue to hold regular meetings with DNR staff to explore ways to expedite and simplify the lease renewal process.
- **No-Discharge Zone:** RBAW will continue to closely track a legal challenge to the Puget-Sound-wide NDZ established by the Department of Ecology, which is pending in U.S. District Court.
- **Capitol Lake Management Study:** RBAW will assist the Olympia Yacht Club, the Port of Olympia, and others in fighting for a “managed lake” alternative on the Lake, vs. a cost-prohibitive “estuary” alternative being pushed by environmental groups and others. At the very least, RBAW wants to assist OYC and a “Marine Alliance” with being held harmless for new costs associate with either an estuary or “hybrid” alternative.